

Message Text

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TAGS: PDIP PINS GR US ASEC

SUBJ: PRESS CONTINUES SPECULATION ON WELCH CASE

1. THE ASSASSINATION OF DICK WELCH CONTINUES TO BE OF INTEREST TO CERTAIN SECTORS OF THE GREEK PRESS IN SPITE OF THE ORDER BY THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR PROHIBITING THE PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO THE CASE.

2. FOR INSTANCE, LEFT-OF-CENTER, ANTI-U.S. ELEFTHERTOTYPIA PRINTED AN ARTICLE ON FEBRUARY 15 ENTITLED "INVESTIGATION INTO WELCH CASE REPORTEDLY CONCLUDED" (FOR FULL TEXT SEE FBIS 555 161608Z FEB 76). THE ESSENCE OF THE STORY WAS THAT THE ASSASSINS WERE NOT GREEK, AND THAT THE AMERICANS HAD TRIED TO IMPEDE THE INVESTIGATION TO OBFUSCATE THEIR OWN BLAME FOR THE MURDER. THE AMERICAN SECRET SERVICES, THE PIECE CONTINUED, MOBILIZED THE U.S. PRESS TO PLACE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CRIME ON THE KGB AND TO DISCREDIT THE GREEK PRESS WHICH MIGHT

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REVEAL ADDITIONAL FACTS. THE AUTHOR ALLEGES THAT ONE OF THE GREEK INVESTIGATORS SAID "THE CASE GOES BEYOND

OUR BORDERS", MEANING THAT WELCH WAS THE VICTIM OF HIS OWN SERVICE. THE WRITER COMMENTS THAT THE INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN THOROUGH AND FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, IS CONCLUDED, ALTHOUGH THE FILE HAS NOT YET OFFICIALLY BEEN CLOSED. THE ARTICLE STATES THAT HAD THE AMERICANS BEEN MORE COOPERATIVE, THE GREEK INVESTIGATORS COULD HAVE DISCOVERED THE PERPETRATORS OF THE CRIME, BUT NOW THE AMERICANS SIMPLY WISHED TO FORGET THE CASE AND HAVE THE GREEK PRESS DROP THE ISSUE.

3. THE ELEFTHEROTYPIA ARTICLE PROMPTED JUSTICE MINISTER STAMATIS TO ISSUE A PUBLIC STATEMENT FEBRUARY 16 STRESSING THAT THE CONTENTS OF THE ARTICLE DID NOT CORRESPOND WITH THE TRUTH AND THAT, TO THE CONTRARY, THE INVESTIGATION IS BEING CONTINUED AS BEFORE.

4. ON A DIFFERING APPROACH, THE EARLY EDITION OF CONSERVATIVE VRADYNI ON FEBRUARY 14 CARRIED A STORY TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GIRL FRIEND OF AN UNNAMED PALESTINIAN HAD INFORMED POLICE THAT HER LOVER HAD CONFIDED TO HER THAT HE WAS INVOLVED IN THE WELCH MURDER. THE STORY, WHICH DID NOT APPEAR IN LATER ISSUES OF THE NEWSPAPER, SAID THAT THE GIRL FRIEND, WHO WAS SEEKING THE REWARD MONEY, HAD BEEN ABANDONED BY THE PALESTINIAN WHO WAS NOW SAID TO BE IN CAIRO. IT NOTED THAT THE GREEK AUTHORITIES WERE ATTEMPTING TO VERIFY THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE GIRL'S CHARGES AND TO OBTAIN DEPOSITIONS FROM THE PALESTINIAN.

5. THIS MORNING (FEBRUARY 17) LIBERAL, OPPOSITION TO VIMA RAN A FRONT-PAGE STORY ON THE WELCH CASE SAID TO BE A RERUN FROM AN ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE LONDON TIMES. THE TO VIMA VERSION WAS BASICALLY PARALLEL TO THAT OF THE VRADYNI STORY, ALTHOUGH THE GIRL WAS FURTHER DESCRIBED AS BEING A 28 YEAR OLD LEBANESE WOMAN LIVING ON THE ISLAND OF CHIOS WHO HAD DENOUNCED HER LOVER TO THE ALIENS POLICE AT PIREAUS ON JANUARY 30. AFTERNOON DAILIES TA NEA, ATHINAIKI AND ELEFTHEROTYPIA LIKEWISE
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REPRODUCED SIMILAR STORIES EXTRACTED FROM THE LONDON TIMES. THE LAST JOURNAL PROVOCATIVELY QUESTIONED THE STATEMENT OF JUSTICE MINISTER STAMATIS AND ASKED IF THE MINISTER THOUGHT THAT A GREEK HAD INDEED COMMITTED THE MURDER, AND WAS IT TRUE THE AMERICANS WISH TO HUSH UP THE AFFAIR?

6. FINALLY, TA NEA YESTERDAY (FEBRUARY 16) UNDER THE HEADLINE "WHAT DID WELCH WANT IN GREECE" REPRINTED AS AN EXCLUSIVE AN INTERVIEW APPEARING IN

A RECENT ISSUE OF THE ITALIAN MAGAZINE EUROPEA.
THE INTERVIEW WAS WITH COUNTERSPY ASSOCIATES TOM BUTZ,
WINSLOW PECK AND HARVEY HAHN, AND DISCUSSED RELATED
ASPECTS OF THE WELCH CASE IN A MANNER REplete WITH
GENERALITIES -- BUT SHORT ON SPECIFICS.
KUBISCH

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